



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

April 4, 2017

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Rayfield, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our strong support for the Oregon Hunger Response Fund as part of SB 5526. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than 80 organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities.

Our members know that across Oregon, families face terrible choices of paying rent and putting food on the table. Today, one in three renters in Oregon now experience food insecurity, meaning they don't always know where their next meal will come from. Renters in Oregon are six times more likely to experience hunger than those who own a home. In 2015, Oregon was the only state in the nation to experience a statistically significant rise in hunger rates. Researchers from OSU found the cause was the very high and increasing cost of housing in our state.

The Oregon Food Bank and its network of food banks and pantries across the state have been on the front lines of helping families both pay rent and put food on the table by providing access to food pantries. A small investment in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund will ensure food banks and pantries across the state can continue to meet basic needs for families and individuals.

Hunger in Oregon is a problem we can solve together. Investing in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund means supporting statewide infrastructure to deliver healthy nutritious food. Investing in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund is an investment in ensuring kids can go to school ready to learn, parents can go to work ready to be productive, and people don't have to go to bed hungry.

We have an opportunity to help Oregonians put food on the table and provide the basics for their families. Investing in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund is a critical investment in our kids, our neighbors, our families, and our seniors. We can help ensure every Oregonian has enough to eat. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison McIntosh  
On behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

## *Housing Alliance Members*

*1000 Friends  
211info  
A Community Together (Lane County)  
Aging in the Gorge  
Benton County Health Department  
Benton Habitat for Humanity  
Bienestar  
Bradley Angle  
CASA of Oregon  
Central City Concern  
Church Women United of Lane County  
City of Beaverton  
City of Eugene  
City of Hillsboro  
City of Portland  
City of Tigard  
Clackamas County  
Coalition of Community Health Clinics  
Coalition of Housing Advocates  
Common Ground OR-WA  
Community Action Partnership of Oregon  
Community Alliance of Tenants  
Community Energy Project  
Community Housing Fund  
Community Partners for Affordable Housing  
Community Vision  
Cornerstone Community Housing  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Evolve Property Management  
Fair Housing Council of Oregon  
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.  
FOOD for Lane County  
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County  
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon  
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East  
Hacienda CDC  
Housing Authority of Clackamas County  
Housing Development Center  
Human Solutions  
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization  
Impact Northwest*

*JOIN  
Lane County Health and Human Services  
League of Women Voters of Oregon  
Lincoln County  
Mainstream Housing, Inc.  
Metro  
Momentum Alliance  
NAYA Family Center  
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.  
Neighborhood Partnerships  
NeighborImpact  
NeighborWorks Umpqua  
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing  
Nightingale Public Advocacy Project  
Northwest Housing Alternatives  
Northwest Pilot Project  
Oregon AFSCME Council 75  
Oregon Center for Public Policy  
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness  
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Housing Authorities  
Oregon Opportunity Network  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives  
Portland Homeless Family Solutions  
Portland Tenants United  
Proud Ground  
Raphael House  
REACH CDC  
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.  
ShelterCare  
Sisters Habitat for Humanity  
Sponsors, Inc.  
SquareOne Villages  
Street Roots  
Transition Projects  
Urban League of Portland  
Washington County  
Welcome Home Coalition  
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services*